

## **II. RESPONSE**

### **A. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-27 were pending at the time of the Restriction Requirement. Claims 1-11 and 23-27 are canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer, in view of the election of the Group III invention below. Therefore, claims 12-22 are pending and under consideration after entry of the amendment.

### **B. Response to Restriction Requirement**

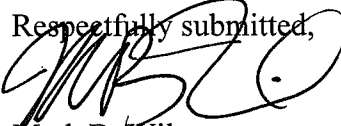
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, *without traverse*, to prosecute the Group III invention, as exemplified by current claims 12-22.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims of the Groups 1, 2, 4 or 5 inventions, or any other claims supported by the specification, in any continuing application.

### **C. Conclusion**

In view of the above, Applicants believe that they have submitted a complete reply to the Restriction Requirement dated December 22, 2006, and respectfully request favorable consideration of the claims in view of the amendments and statements contained herein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicants' representative at (512) 536-3035.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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